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the Board's Standing Order No. 13 (5) should be interpreted liberally. The Government have further ordered that coercive steps should not be taken for the collection of loan instalments in certain areas. Copies[a] of the relevant orders are placed on the table of the House."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" Sir, in view of the length of the answer, we are not able to follow it. I request that the answer may be circulated to-morrow so that supplementary questions may be put on it."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" Copies of the order have already been placed on the table of the House."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM:—" With reference to details in the printed paper laid on the table of the House, may I know if the Government have considered any proposal for writing off the arrears of kist collection in view of the continuous drought conditions in the State for the last five or six years?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" The remission would be considered according to the rules of remission."

Branches of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in this State.

* 75 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of branches of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals functioning in this State showing the number of members of each branch and to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any control over the activities of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and if so, to what extent;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any complaints or representations regarding the persecution of ignorant people by the subordinates of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and if so, the action taken thereon; and

(*c*) whether the Government have any proposal to transfer this branch of work to the regular staff of the Animal Husbandry Department?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" A statement[b] showing the number of branches of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in this State and the number of members of each branch is placed on the table of the House.

" (*a*) The Government exercise control over the activities of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals through officers of Government who are ex-officio Presidents of the Societies.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 332–333 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix III on page 334 infra.

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" (b) The Government have received some representations about persecution of ignorant persons by Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals agents and they are taking suitable action in the matter.

" (c) The Government have no such proposal."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know how these members of branches of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are enrolled? Is there any particular rule or process for enlisting the members of these Societies? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think anybody can join as a member and he should be admitted by the Society."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Would not the Government consider the possibility of transferring the work to the Animal Husbandry department, in which case we would have the entire work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals under the control of the Government? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is now being done by the Society. I do not think we should take it over now."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know what steps the Government would take to prevent cruelty to ignorant villagers by the subordinate officials of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals especially in the mufassal centres? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We received complaints from the Coimbatore district and we have appointed a Committee to go into this matter and submit proposals to the Government."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I point out that there have been similar complaints in the Chingleput district also, and may I request the Hon. Minister to appoint a Committee generally for enquiry about all districts? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The proposals which will be submitted by the Committee appointed for the Coimbatore district would be applied to other districts also."

Hardship caused to Indian citizens to go to French Indian Settlements by the existence of the permit system.

* 76 Q.—SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the citizens of Madras State who wish to go to Pondicherry and other French Indian Settlement are experiencing great hardship due to the introduction of the permit system;